

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 08, 2011

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Jane Fowler; Jan Kinsella; Mary Lou McNerney; Pam Szypulski; Mary Lou Urquhart; Jean Wode; Margaret Young.

Excused members: Theo Loppatto and Gloria Farrar

Also present: Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the October 11, 2011 Meeting

After an amendment, Ms. Fowler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Young seconded the motions and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion Regarding Recognition of Anniversary of Liberation Day for Periers, France

Ms. Olmstead explained that Councilman, Joseph Healy, was unable to attend the meeting today. However, he hopes to attend a future meeting to discuss thoughts and ideas that the Committee may come up with on having a recognition of anniversary of Liberation Day for Periers, France on July 27th.

Ms. Young commented that she has mixed feeling on having an event on the day of Liberation for Periers, France because they may not want this day to be celebrated.

Ms. Olmstead replied that the citizens of Periers, France view this day in a positive way since it was the day when the town gained its freedom. It is a special day in their town, and they thought it would be best for Bethany Beach to recognize its relationship with them as its Sister City on this day.

Ms. Fowler added that she feels Liberation Day would be a good day to have an event.

The Committee came up with the following ideas to recognize Periers, France on July 27th:

- Ms. Szypulski said that local restaurants could be asked to put French entrees on their menus for the day.
- Ms. Young suggested that the Town could have a ceremony and incorporate a message of gratitude for maintaining the cemetery in Periers, France.
- Ms. Urquhart stated that the recognition could be advertised on the Bandstand during a show prior to the event.
- Ms. Olmstead suggested that the event can be called “Periers Day”.
- Ms. Olmstead said that it was suggested at the last meeting that the National Anthem could be sang in French on the Bandstand.
- Ms. Wode recommended that pictures of Periers, France could be displayed in the Museum while music is being played, and the Museum can open with a short story. Ms. Fowler added that pictures from the visit of Periers, France representatives could be shown next year.
- Ms. Young suggested that the local newspapers could write an article on the recognition event of Periers, France in able to reach out to a lot of people.
- Ms. Wode made a suggestion that a scrapbook can be created that contains all of the newspaper articles written by local newspapers on the recognition of Periers, France.
- Ms. McNerney suggested that e-mails could be sent to the officials of Periers, France to see if they would be interested in visiting Bethany Beach.
- Ms. Wode proposed that the restaurant chefs could create menus for the Periers recognition day and distribute them at the Farmers Market prior to the event, as an advertisement.
- Ms. Szypulski recommended that the French Flag can be displayed. Ms. Olmstead noted that she will find out if Periers has its own flag.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged to the Committee members that these are all great ideas, and will be presented to Mr. Healy at a future CHAC meeting.

Museum

Review Suggestions Regarding Docent Program

Ms. Olmstead recalled that it was discussed at the last meeting that there were not many people who visited the Museum this past summer, so they decided that it should be open during a different time other than Sundays from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Committee ensued a discussion on a time schedule for the Museum. They decided on the following times for the Museum to be open:

- One week day evening from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays
- Saturdays during the fall from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- An hour or so before a Cultural Event takes place.

- Certain holiday weekends.
- A week day during the summer.
- The same time as the Farmer's Market.

Ms. Olmstead emphasized that these are good ideas, and she will create a list to distribute at the next meeting, so the Committee can vote on approving the times.

Suggestions for Promoting Museum

The following suggestions were made by the Committee members to promote the Museum:

- Ms. Szypulski suggested that the Museum hours can be posted in real estate offices in the Town.
- Ms. Olmstead proposed that the Committee can create fliers and post them at the five places around Town – the PNC Bank, the Town Office, the Post Office, the Bandstand, and the South Coastal Library.
- Ms. Wode recommended that the Museum be advertised in the Bethany Beach-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce Visitor Guide.
- The idea of creating rack cards about the Museum to include in rental company packets was also discussed.

Other Suggestions

Ms. Olmstead explained that Ms. Farrar suggested at the last meeting that a Brown Sign advertising the Museum could be installed. These signs are implemented by the State of Delaware, and it requires an application to be completed and sent to them.

Ms. Olmstead presented a draft that she created of what the sign would look like, and the Committee members felt it was an attractive design.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that a guest book has been displayed in the Museum for visitors to sign, but it has not yet been signed.

The Committee ensued a discussion on developing a program for school students that would attend the Museum as a class.

Ms. McNerney noted that this would be a great idea because the students will pass the information on the Museum to their family members, which is another way to advertise it.

Ms. Kinsella suggested that the program for the students could combine with the Fire Company's birthday party events for children.

Ms. Fowler noted that combining all of the children together into the Museum may become too overwhelming.

Ms. McNerney and Ms. Olmstead volunteered to create the Museum program for the students

Ms. Olmstead stated that they will also need knowledge of the size of the classrooms.

Ms. Young noted that some schools have forty-five percent (45%) of non-English speakers.

Discussion Regarding Possible Cultural Events

Ms. Olmstead reported that Ms. Loppatto attended a Delaware Public Archives Program and obtained the following ideas for Cultural Events:

- 1.) Beginning Geneology
- 2.) Why Does Delaware Have a Strange Shape?
- 3.) Treasures of the Delaware Public Archives
- 4.) How to Research the History of Your House
- 5.) African American Resources

Ms. McNerney noted that she saw a representative from MERR present a topic on animal rescue, and suggested that the presenter could present the same topic for a Cultural Event.

Ms. Young mentioned that Ms. Farrar stated at the last meeting that she knew someone who could do a presentation on the women of the Civil War and “The Big Four”.

The idea of asking Mr. Tom Ryan to present, who has previously done presentations for Cultural Events, was discussed.

Ms. Olmstead noted that the Rehoboth Film Society has e-mailed her some time ago regarding having movie showings at the Town Hall. However, they have decided to present the films at Bear Trap Dunes.

Review Current Project Assignments

The Committee discussed the following current project assignments:

- The Newspaper Articles Scrapbook : Ms. Urquhart and Ms. Kinsella will follow up on this project.
- Notecards: Ms. Szypulski presented information and price estimates from a printing company for the notecards. Ms. Olmstead said that they will have them available and printed for the docents working in the Museum. The Committee decided that the notecards should be only sold in the Museum.

Adjourn

Ms. Urquhart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Szypulski, the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

There will be no meeting in December, and the next meeting is scheduled for January 10th, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Good, Admin. Secretary